

News and Views

L'Abbe Breuil

M. L'ABBÉ BREUIL, professor in the Institut de Paléontologie Humaine and of prehistory in the Collège de France, has been elected a member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. This signal honour is conferred in recognition of his work in prehistory and more especially of his studies of the art of the palaeolithic age. The Abbé has now been recognized for nearly a generation as the foremost authority on prehistoric archaeology not only in France, but also in the whole world; and his opinion on any disputed point is universally regarded as a court of final appeal. His election to the Academy is a matter of peculiar gratification to his colleagues in France, as it is the first occasion on which the study of early man and his culture has been honoured officially in this manner; for although de Quatrefages was a member of the Académie des Sciences and Hamy of the Académie des Inscriptions, while Cartailhac was a corresponding member at Toulouse of the latter body, they received these honours, as the editor of *L'Anthropologie* points out in the current issue (48, 1938, p. 391), not in virtue of their eminence in anthropological studies, but on the ground of other qualifications—de Quatrefages as zoologist, and Hamy for his work on the history of geography and geographical exploration.

Dr. Leo Jolowicz

ON August 12, Dr. Leo Jolowicz will celebrate his seventieth birthday. For many years he has occupied an outstanding position in the German scientific book and publishing business, and has done very much to foster and promote the development and diffusion of the results of scientific research. About fifty years ago, he took over the book business of Gustav Fock in Leipzig, which under his leadership became the largest and best-known 'Antiquariat' of scientific books. Dr. Jolowicz founded the famous publishing house, the Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft. This firm publishes a large number of well-known scientific journals, including, for example, the *Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie*, and many important standard works and reviews, among which may be mentioned the "Handbuch der Experimentalphysik", "Handbuch der Radiologie", "Rabenhorst Kryptogamen-Flora", "Bronns Klassen und Ordnungen des Tierreiches", "Ergebnisse der Enzymforschung", "Ergebnisse der Vitamin- und Hormonforschung", etc. Among the world's famous publishers who through their deep interest in, and knowledge of, science and learning and their enterprise and imagination do so much to promote the advance of civilization, Dr. Jolowicz occupies a prominent and honoured position.

George James Symons, F.R.S. (1838-1901)

ON AUGUST 6, occurs the centenary of the birth of the distinguished meteorologist George James Symons, in whose honour the Symons Medal of the Royal Meteorological Society was founded. Born in Queen's Row, Pimlico, he was educated at St. Peter's School, Eaton Square, London, and at Thornton Rectory, Leicestershire, and passed through the Royal School of Mines. Having joined the British Meteorological Society in 1856, the following year he undertook the duties of meteorological reporter to the Registrar-General, and these he continued to discharge until his death. For three years, 1860-63, he also served under Rear-Admiral Robert FitzRoy in the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade, which had been inaugurated in 1857. His services to meteorological science were many and varied. In 1860 he published the first volume of his "British Rainfall", which gave rise to the British Rainfall Organization, the work of which was transferred to the Meteorological Office in 1919, and in 1866 he founded *Symon's Meteorological Magazine*, which in 1920, with the *Meteorological Office Circular*, was incorporated with the *Meteorological Magazine*. For two periods he served as honorary secretary to the Royal Meteorological Society, and in 1880 and 1900 was the president. So early as 1876 he received a Telford premium from the Institution of Civil Engineers for a paper on floods and water economy, and in 1897 he was awarded the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the service he had rendered engineers engaged on water supply problems. His death took place on March 10, 1900, and he was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery. The following year a fund of more than £700 was subscribed for founding the Medal bearing his name.

Sir James Barrett's Reminiscences

SIR JAMES BARRETT, chancellor of the University of Melbourne, has contributed to *The Herald* (Melbourne) during April and May of this year a series of reminiscences which deal with the history of old Melbourne and its University and Hospital, early days in London and on the Continent, recollections of the Great War, and education and university extension in Great Britain and the United States. Born and spending his boyhood in old Melbourne, when there were toll gates on the St. Kilda Road, Sir James entered the University there when he was fifteen years old, and graduated in the medical faculty in 1881. He recalls the kindly assistance given to students by Prof. Halford, who taught anatomy, physiology and pathology, at a time when the University had only two hundred students with five professors to teach them, and describes medical

practice in Melbourne Hospital in those pre-antiseptic days. He proceeded to London in 1883, obtained the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, became demonstrator of physiology in King's College, London, under Gerald Yeo, and commenced his career as an ophthalmic surgeon as assistant at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Interesting recollections are given of Bowman, McCarthy and Michael Foster, Gaskell and Langley, and Jonathan Hutchinson and Whittaker Hulke, all well-known figures in the medical world of the time; he also visited the Continent, and met Koch in Berlin. Then come recollections of the Great War, and the organization of the medical service in Egypt. The organization of "bush nursing centres" in Australia is recounted, a scheme initiated in 1908 by the Countess of Dudley, and finally, Sir James has a good deal to say upon education and university extension, and recalls some of his meetings with British statesmen.

The British Medical Association: Plymouth Meeting

DR. COLIN LINDSAY presided at the one hundred and sixth annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Plymouth on July 19 and following days. "The Profession and the Public" was the title of the address of Dr. Lindsay, who pointed out that his remarks were based upon an experience of forty years as general practitioner and consulting physician. He emphasized the need for continued education both for the public and for the practitioner, and the necessity that exists for a specialist service to supplement the service of the family doctor, for medicine has grown so enormously that it is quite impossible for any one person to be proficient in every branch. He reminded the public of the unity and equality of the three main branches of the profession—the general practitioners, the consultants and the members of the public health service—which are essentially complementary, each requiring for its proper performance attainments of the highest order. He desires to see more attention paid to the treatment of the so-called 'minor ailments', for it has been estimated that forty per cent of all sickness is due to the patient's own action. The principle of 'free choice of doctor' under National Health Insurance was stressed, and the Association's proposals for a general medical service for the nation were outlined, by which members of families within an income limit of £250 a year would be included. Other topics dealt with were the fees to be paid for consultative work, the education of the public in the use of the doctor, and the countering of credulity on the part of the public.

Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine

THE report of the Governing Body of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, presented at the annual general meeting on June 2, gives an account of the researches carried out at the Institute during the past year. Several studies on viruses, vaccinia and others, are detailed, with an investigation on the problem of rheumatic diseases, in which virus-like bodies occur. Dr. Felix and others have con-

tinued their work on the antigenic constitution, virulence and immunizing properties of bacteria and Protozoa, and the chemistry of bacterial antigens has also been investigated. The Svedberg velocity ultracentrifuge, installed some time ago, has given satisfactory service, and several proteins have been the subject of study with this instrument. Many studies on vitamins, their chemistry and action have been prosecuted by Dr. Harriette Chick and her co-workers. The Institute is the home of the National Collection of Type Cultures, and more than 6,000 cultures have been distributed to workers at home and abroad. Sir John Ledingham, the director, his staff and attached workers may be congratulated on their fine output of work.

Medical Classics

Two important medical classics which were recently published in the *Bulletin of the Institute of the History of Medicine* have just been reprinted in book form and thereby made accessible to a wide circle of readers. The first of these, entitled "On Thought in Medicine", is the address delivered by Hermann von Helmholtz on August 2, 1877, on the anniversary of the foundation of the Institute for the Education of Army Surgeons. In this address, Helmholtz attacks the old educational system which he regards as pursuing a false idea of science, in which there is a one-sided and erroneous reverence for the deductive method. Medical education during the early part of the nineteenth century in Germany was based mainly on the study of books. There were no physiological or physical laboratories, and microscopical demonstrations were infrequent in lectures. It fell to Johannes Müller and his pupils, of whom Helmholtz was one, to stimulate the study of microscopical and pathological anatomy, experimental pathology and therapeutics and to substitute experimental research for untried and unconfirmed hypotheses.

THE second volume contains a translation of Ivan Sandström's work entitled "On a New Gland in Man and Several Animals (Glandula Parathyroideæ)", which was published in vol. 15 of the Swedish journal *Upsala Läkareföreningens Förfärlingar* for 1879-80, and represents the first detailed description of the parathyroid glands, based on the naked-eye and microscopical examination of these glands in the dog, cat, rabbit, ox and about fifty human subjects. It is noteworthy that whereas the translation of Helmholtz's address was published so long ago as 1893, the English version of Sandström's monograph now appears for the first time, and has been carried out by Dr. Carl Seipel, who has also translated an account of Sandström's life and work by Prof. A. J. Hammar of Stockholm.

Jubilee of the Gypsy Lore Society

THIS year the Gypsy Lore Society celebrates the fiftieth year of its existence. The occasion was marked by a jubilee dinner on June 11, over which Lady Arthur Grosvenor (president, 1913-14) pre-